

Parent 09/792,663

1. A method for determining the level of fluid in a container comprising:

obtaining a container having a first fluid region therein;

a first fluid being present at an original level in said first fluid region of said

container;

said container, for when in use, having said first fluid at least partially removed from said container thereby forming a second fluid region;

placing on at least one exterior surface of said container at least one temperature-measuring device;

at least one said temperature-measuring device being located in a region of said container where said second fluid region is formed by removal of said first fluid;

initially observing a first temperature in said first fluid region of said container when said first fluid is present in said first fluid region of said container;

subsequently observing a second temperature in said second fluid region of said container after a portion of said first fluid has been removed;

correlating the difference between said first temperature and said second temperature to the level of said first fluid in said container.

2. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of temperature-measuring device are sequentially located in the regions of said container where said second fluid region is formed by removal of said first fluid.

3. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to claim 1 wherein at least one temperature-measuring device is located at a point from 5 % to 35% of the original level in said first fluid region of said container.

4. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to claim 1 wherein at least one temperature-measuring device is a eutectic temperature-measuring device.

5. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according to claim 1 where said container is present in a location of low humidity.

6. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according

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1 to claim 5 wher in said container is in a refrigerator.

2 7. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according  
3 to claim 1 wherein said first fluid is a liquid.

4 8. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according  
5 to claim 1 wherein said second fluid is a gas.

6 9. A fluid dispensing assembly comprising:

7 a sealed container, for when in use, containing a liquid under pressure;

8 said sealed container having an exterior surface;

9 said exterior surface of said sealed container having a heightwise dimension and  
10 a widthwise dimension; and

11 at least one temperature-measuring device positioned on said heightwise  
12 dimension of said exterior surface.

13 10. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said  
14 widthwise dimension of said sealed container is generally circular.

15 11. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein a  
16 plurality of temperature-measuring device are sequentially located on said  
17 heightwise dimension of said exterior surface of said sealed container.

18 12. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least  
19 one temperature-measuring device is located at a point from 5 % to 35%  
20 of said heightwise dimension of said exterior surface of said sealed  
21 container.

22 13. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least  
23 one temperature-measuring device is a eutectic temperature-measuring  
24 device.

25 14. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said  
26 container is a substantially metal container.

27 15. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said  
28 container is a substantially glass container.

29 16. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least  
30 one temperature-measuring device is at least partially insulated on the

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- 1 surface spaced apart from said exterior surface of said sealed container.
- 2 17. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein a
- 3 plurality temperature-measuring devices are spaced apart on said exterior
- 4 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height.
- 5 18. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 6 plurality of temperature-measuring devices spaced apart on said exterior
- 7 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height is at
- 8 least 3.
- 9 19. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 10 plurality of temperature-measuring devices spaced apart on said exterior
- 11 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height is 3 to
- 12 8.
- 13 20. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 14 container is marked in the region of at least one of the temperature-
- 15 measuring devices to indicate the approximate fluid level.
- 16 21. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 17 container is a beer barrel.
- 18 22. A fluid dispensing assembly comprising:
- 19 a sealed metal beer barrel, for when in use, containing beer under pressure;
- 20 said metal beer barrel having an exterior surface;
- 21 said exterior surface of said metal beer barrel having a heightwise dimension and
- 22 a generally circular cross-sectional dimension; and
- 23 at least one temperature-measuring device positioned on said heightwise
- 24 dimension of said exterior surface of said metal beer barrel.
- 25 23. A temperature-measuring device mounted on a flexible band.
- 26 24. The temperature-measuring device according to claim 23 wherein
- 27 said flexible band is an endless band.
- 28 25. The temperature-measuring device according to claim 23 wherein
- 29 said flexible band has a first end and a second end, said first end having
- 30 connecting means to connect with said second end.

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- 2       26.       The temperature-measuring device according to claim 25 wherein
- 3               said first end has Velcro fastening means.
- 4       27.       A method of obtaining the level of a liquid or a gas in a container including
- 5               the steps of:
- 6               obtaining the temperature at a selected region of said container containing
- 7               said liquid or said gas;
- 8               comparing the temperature at said selected region of said container with a
- 9               profile of temperatures corresponding to a liquid level of said fluid in a vessel and
- 10              the temperature corresponding to a gas level in the vessel; and,
- 11       determining whether the temperature in said container indicates the level of said liquid
- 12       or said gas.
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